

# ANACONDA TIMES

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Proudly serving Logistics Support Area Anaconda

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## Lost ID's cause problems on post

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
Staff writer

Soldiers are losing their government issued identification cards at LSA Anaconda at an average rate of 10 to 15 a week, a serious problem that must be addressed, according to Chief Warrant Officer Adam J. Williams, 38th Personnel Services Battalion human resources technician.

There are a number of reasons why Soldiers lose ID cards, including failing to check uniform pockets prior to laundering or simply setting the ID down somewhere and forgetting it.

"I think most of it is transferring between different uniforms or when Sol-



Photo manipulation by Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
**Spc. Jason Arnold, 38th PSB, makes a replacement identification card.**

diers go on combat missions. They have enough combat gear on that they don't put it in a safe place," Williams said.

The seriousness of losing this sensitive document cannot be stressed enough, especially in a combat environment.

In the worst-case scenario, Anti-Iraqi forces could get a hold of the sensitive document and use it to access the installation. "If they can use a fake ID card to at least get through a couple of barriers at the North Gate to get onto Anaconda. That just puts them at a closer advantage to plant something, receive information, gather information and use it against us," said Master Sgt. Albert W. Ponton, 367th Military Police Detachment operations sergeant.

Once Soldiers become aware that they have lost their ID cards, they can inquire at the MP's lost and found to see if anyone has turned it in.

The MPs keep lost items at the front desk, including ID cards and ID tags, for 30 days.

"A lot [of items] we'll have for 30 days and no one's come in to claim them," Ponton said.

The items are sent to the lost and found where they are catalogued and kept for 30 days before being destroyed.

Soldiers should notify their chain of command immediately if lost and found does not have the sensitive item.

The commander can determine whether to charge the Soldier with an  
see LOST, page 2

## Plastic surgery no luxury for most Soldiers

By Michael E. Dukes  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is not offering free face-lifts, tummy tucks and breast enhancements to everyone in uniform, medical officials said, adding that recent articles in national publications may be misleading.

"The spectrum of plastic surgery most people see are the shows on TV, extreme makeover shows, and they think that's plastic surgery," said Lt. Col. Joseph Kolb, Walter Reed Army Medical Center's Plastic Surgery Service chief. "We are primarily a reconstructive service."

Less than 20 percent of the plastic surgery cases at Walter Reed are for elective cosmetic procedures, Kolb said.

The entire Army has only about a dozen plastic surgeons, Kolb said, adding that plastic surgery is far from a luxury service offered to military beneficiaries.

"The Army keeps us around for reconstructive procedures," Kolb said. "In addition, we operate on children with congenital defects like cleft lip, cleft palate and other defects to the head and neck."

Kolb said Walter Reed's four plastic surgeons are very intimately and actively involved in treating wounded from the war in Iraq. One, Lt. Col. Andrew Friedman, is currently deployed to Iraq as a general surgeon.

"He ends up doing a lot of acute hand injuries over there."

"Hand function is really very dependent on the timeliness of repair," Kolb explained. "So having a hand surgeon in Iraq can make a difference in having a functional hand after an injury, and not having a functional hand. It's that important."

"We also have nasal reconstruction patients — people who have part or all of their nose blown away," he said. "And we've all been involved in some very difficult head and neck traumas with Iraq going on. Those are always very difficult to do because of the complexity."

"There are some injuries where you're never going to make a person look normal again. And unfortunately, some of the injuries we've seen [from Iraq] are in that category. But we make them function, obviously saving the patient's life is important. Functional considerations are much more important than cosmetic," Kolb explained. "Luckily, we've had some good results with the reconstruction, and I think it will return people to certain levels of duty in some cases."

"The spectrum of plastic surgery goes from the very simple, purely cosmetic things up to the very complex micro-vascular surgery," Kolb said. "Using micro-vascular techniques, surgeons can move a piece of tissue with its artery and vein to another part of a patient's body and hook into a different artery and vein."

This is something Walter Reed plastic surgeons perform regularly.

Despite supporting deployments and spending long hours in the operating room to treat the war wounded "We have maintained our support of the Breast Center and of cleft lip, cleft palate and can-

cer surgery in general," he said. "We've been in a little bit of a squeeze and our ability to do cosmetic surgery has been compromised a certain bit. But, we're still offering most every service we've always offered — certainly the waiting times have increased though."

Walter Reed plastic surgeons also find time for research. "We are on a [Food and Drug Administration] protocol for using silicone-gel implants for breast reconstructive work," Kolb said. This allows doctors in the Walter Reed Comprehensive Breast Center to send their breast cancer patients to plastic surgery for a consult for breast implantation.

To help maintain the surgeons' skills in all areas of plastic surgery, Kolb said services are sometimes provided in other areas. Walter Reed gets thousands of plastic surgery consults for beneficiaries wanting some type of cosmetic surgery.

"The demand is tremendous and we don't have the [operating room] time to devote to all of them," he said. "Because of that, I personally have to go through all of the consults, that go to the service, and prioritize them."

Kids and patients with cancer who need reconstructive surgery come first.

Because of Walter Reed's vast expertise in plastic surgery, medical students from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences come to the hospital's Plastic Surgery Service to conduct research.

The service also offers a unique opportunity for the USUHS residents. "We're also restarting humanitarian trips down to Central and South America in fiscal year '05," Kolb said.

# Get your story into hometown newspapers

Your letter from home could start like this "Jeff, your Aunt Mabel read about your promotion to Specialist in her newspaper yesterday. She was so excited to see your name in print."

Or "My friend Liz brought me an article she clipped from the paper about your selection as Soldier of the Quarter. I'm so proud of you, Sarah."

How is it statements like these are possible? How does your mom's friend read about you in his or her local paper? Newsworthy events like promotions, awards, deployments or graduations can be announced to local news media outlets in your hometown through the Army and Air Force Hometown News Service. All service members and civilian Defense Department employees are eligible for hometown news coverage.

It's easy to get information to the Hometown News Service by filling out a Department of Defense Form 2266 and turning it in to your local public affairs office.

The minimum essential information on the form includes your social security number (which will not be released to the media), the event you have been recognized for, at least one address and zip code of a family member and your signature. There is enough space on the form to list four different addresses. Don't worry about getting the exact street address correct, the zip code is the most important part.

After signing the form, turn it in through your unit to the Public Affairs Office then sit back and wait to hear your parents and friends talk about your accomplishments. By filling out the form, you can reach almost all of your friends and family in one easy step.

HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASE INFORMATION									
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# Strive for gold-medal standard

*They work extremely hard in preparations, possess desire to be very best*

By Lt. Col. H.B. Brual  
91st Operations  
Support Squadron

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.  
— Over the past week, I've been watching the world's best athletes compete in numerous sporting events at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. During the television coverage of the games and the post-event interviews, I noticed two common themes from the athletes' comments. First, the competitors worked extremely hard to prepare for the Olympics, and second, they possessed the desire to be the very best in their respective disciplines.

These two themes bring to mind the phenomenal effort and work ethic of our own Airmen and how our people exemplify the third of our Air Force core values, excellence in all we do.

Similar to the world's best athletes, Airmen practice and work hard before they are ever called upon to perform their respective tasks. Regardless of career field, we can see it in all of our work centers. Take a moment to look around and you can see our Airmen training for the ultimate competition — war, where there is no second place. Bottom line: our Airmen are ready because they work hard during the preparation phase of each operation.

The second theme, the desire to be the best, is reflected in the numerous accolades Airmen here have received

over the past year. Team Minot has the best security forces squadron and group within the Air Force, the best Air Force services squadron, the best space intercontinental ballistic missile wing at Air Force Space Command's Guardian Challenge Competition, the best ICBM crew in the Air Force, as well as a multitude of other awards.

But it is important to note that we cannot sit on our past accomplishments, expecting to receive the same laurels and awards without the hard work and sacrifice necessary to be the very best.

Maurice Green ran the men's 100-meter race in 9.87 seconds, a time equal to his gold-winning performance in the 2000 Olympic Games. Four years later, that same time was only good enough for bronze. The competition continues to improve, and to stay at the top we must as well.

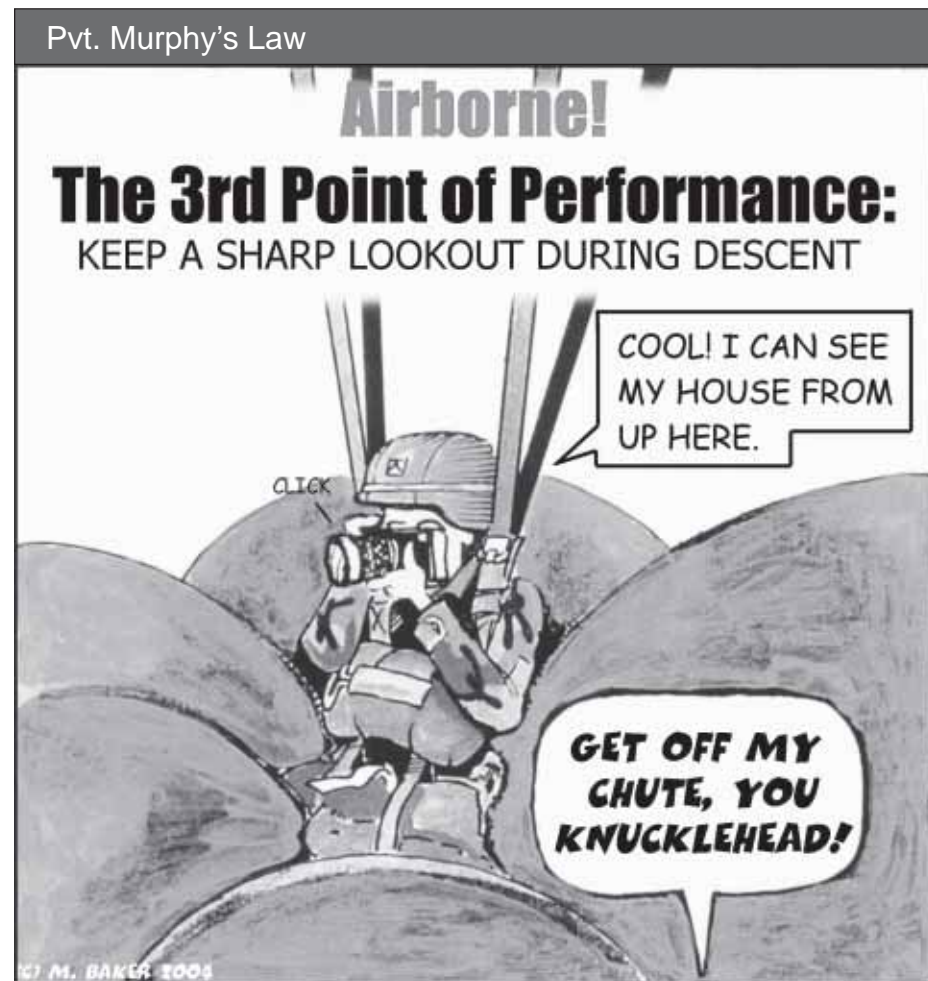
Teddy Roosevelt was giving a speech at the Sorbonne in Paris and he said, "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly."

It is Airmen who deploy, maintain our planes and missiles, and provide security for these great weapons. It is Airmen who preserve our freedom and way of life. And unlike the Olympics, where athletes compete in

fields of friendly strife, we serve in a more dangerous and exacting environment.

Our great nation expects — no, deserves — the very best from all of us, because we cannot afford to receive anything but the gold medal. Therefore, we must continue to improve and strive for excellence in all we do.

The *Anaconda Times* has a dedicated Web site containing the current and past issues at  
[www.mnf-iraq.com/coalition-news/publications/anaconda.htm](http://www.mnf-iraq.com/coalition-news/publications/anaconda.htm)



by Aaron Thacker  
send e-mail to:  
[aaron.thacker@armyofme.us](mailto:aaron.thacker@armyofme.us)





## Left Shoulder Diary

# Louisiana Army National Guard

Compiled from  
Unit History

The Louisiana Army National Guard shoulder sleeve insignia is characterized by a white pelican with yellow bill and blue eye, feeding gray young all in a yellow nest set on a blue octagon edged with a one-eighth of an inch yellow border. The dimensions are two and one-half inches in height and in width.

The design is taken from the device used on the Louisiana State Seal and is the crest of the approved regiments and separate battalions of the Louisiana Army National Guard. The colors yellow and blue are taken from the Louisiana State Flag.

The insignia was originally approved for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and other non-divisional elements of the Louisiana Army National Guard June 18, 1969. It was re-designated for Headquarters, State Area Command, Louisiana Army National Guard Dec. 30, 1983.

The LAARNG dates back to the 18th Century when a militia was formed from among the civilian inhabitants of Colonial Louisiana to assist Royal French and Spanish troops in protecting the colony. The militia was largely responsible for the success of the Galvez expedition, which wrested Baton Rouge from the British in 1779.

In 1813, the General Assembly of the new State of Louisiana passed a far-reaching act to create an effective militia which two years later played an important part in the defeat of the British on the plains of Chalmette. Militia units from Louisiana made up a sizeable part of General Zachary Taylor's victorious army in the Mexican War from 1845 to 1848.

In 1860, immediately preceding the outbreak of the Civil War, Louisiana militia troops totaled five divisions whose companies, battalions, regiments and brigades were spread among nearly every parish of the state. A total of 982 military companies were organized in Louisiana during the Civil War of which some 400 were militia companies.

When hostilities erupted on the Mexican border in 1916, the Louisiana National Guard answered the call and moved to the border, and then in 1917, only a couple of month after being mustered out, were called back for overseas service in World War I.

Elements of the LAARNG deployed to LSA Anaconda, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. These units are conducting missions ranging from aviation support to military police operations.

## Civilian of the Week

**E**rica R. Lemons works in KBR's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department and spends most of her time coordinating activities for the Soldiers' enjoyment at the recreation facilities.

This Ponchatoula, La., native arrived here in early July during 130-degree dry heat and mortar and rocket attacks.

"I wasn't really scared at first, and I haven't been scared since," Lemons said. "I know there are people who have seen horrible things, so I've been fortunate."

Lemons took to her job immediately, taking no heed to the dangerous situation in which she suddenly found herself.

"Due to the conditions of being in a war zone, we're unable to provide the level of service and equipment that I wish we could provide. That's very frustrating for me," she said.

Lemons thrives off the positive energy of the Soldiers here. She finds the most rewarding part of her job is being able to please people, playing a new movie that the Soldiers enjoy, or watching them get excited about seeing their names on the champions' board.

Although her desire to make a difference brought her to LSA Anaconda, she misses her family, friends and especially her pets. Her deployment wasn't easy for her family members.

"They've accepted it now. I think my brother took it the hardest, but they were very supportive," she said. "They even threw me a going away party the day before I left. It was my very first surprise party."

Lemons would like to tell her family members that she misses them and loves them, that she's fine, and that she's coming home safely.



Erica R. Lemons

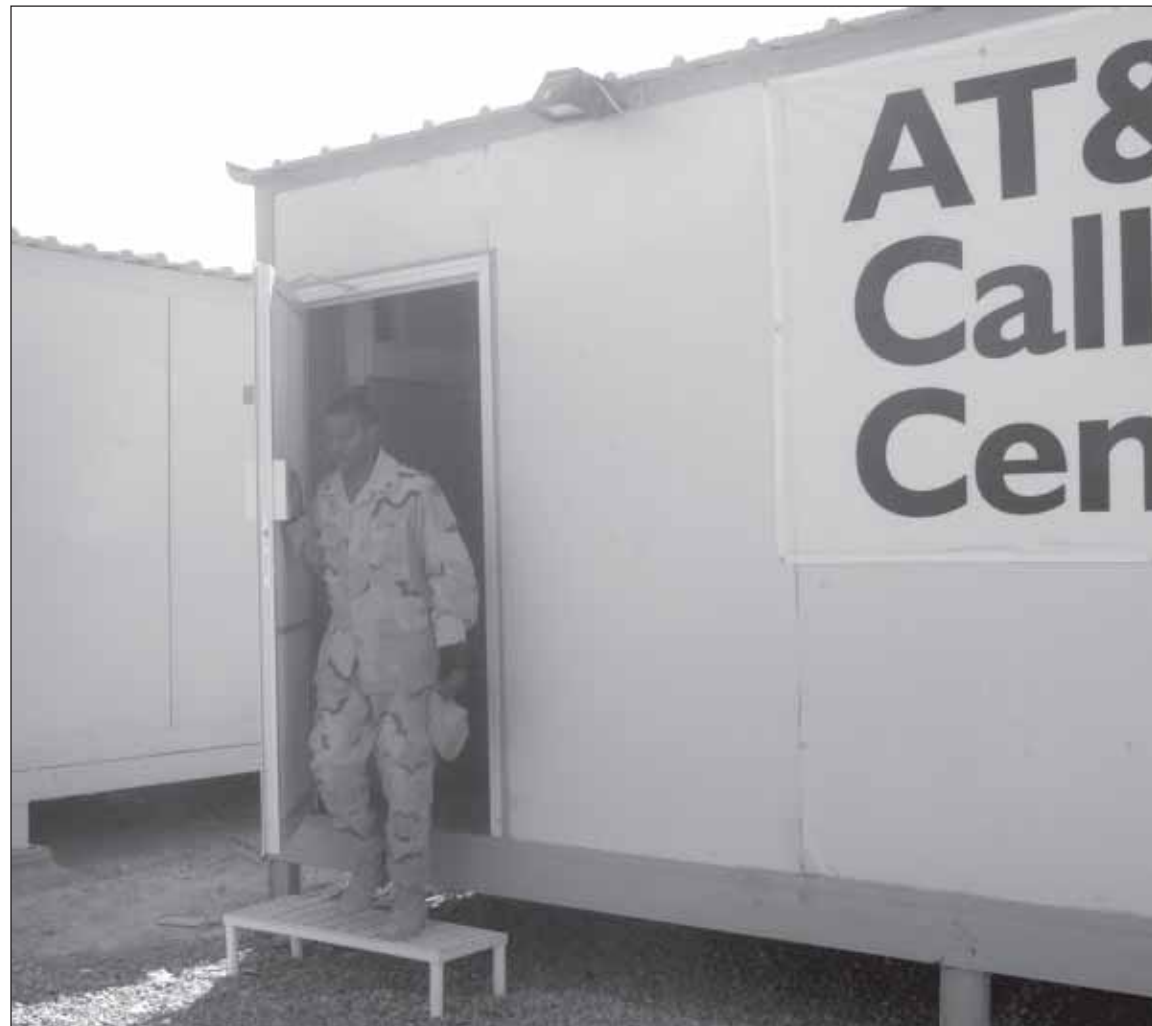


Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

A new calling center recently opened to replace the telephone center tent adjacent to the LSA Anaconda Post Exchange on New Jersey Avenue.

# Air ambulance unit has rescue success

By Sgt. Ann Venturato  
Assistant editor

Two hundred and forty seconds can make a difference between life and death.

The unit's mission: to expediently clear all wounded from the battlefield; the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) has done that at least 600 times since reaching theater. Their quickest response time for aeromedical evacuation is around four minutes from notification to lift off.

"There are three crews on duty here at all times," said Capt. Charles Cook, operations officer. "Each crew consists of two pilots, a crew chief and a flight medic."

As the 82nd Med. Co. receives a MEDEVAC request, the pilot and crew chief prepare the UH-60 Black Hawk while the co-pilot and the flight medic acquire the location and information.

It's this type of teamwork to get off the ground and execute the mission that makes for a quick

response time.

"We answer the call wherever they need us," Cook said. "You never know what you are going to find out there."

Besides having transported more than 2,800 patients, with MEDEVAC crews in Baquba, Camp Caldwell and Al Kut, the air ambulance company covers all of southern Iraq from Talil to Tikrit.

The air ambulance crews use the 6-digit grid location, provided in their information packet, to locate the pickup site that is not always secured upon their arrival.

"We do a lot of point-of-entry pickups like any normal MEDEVAC unit. [These are] mostly from improvised explosive devices," Cook said.

The birds can set down between power lines or on the same roads where the IED's exploded.

In flight, the medics are prepared to control an injured Soldier's bleeding or simply comfort the service member until the aircraft reaches the hospital.

With 15 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to support MEDEVAC

missions in the 82nd Med. Co.'s area of operations, the Soldiers transport medical supplies and more.

"We also do all the patient transfers from LSA Anaconda to the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad," Cook said.

As heroic as it all seems, dealing with the trauma can be extremely stressful for the MEDEVAC crews.

"It does take a toll on the Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class David Dennis, flight platoon sergeant.

The crews conduct a debriefing after each mission to make sure everyone is doing all right, physically as well as mentally. Crew members said that any information that travels back to them concerning one of their MEDEVAC patients

helps reduce their stress knowing that person is alive and recovering from their injuries.

Being able to save someone's life is what the 82nd Med. Co. mission is all about. For many of the Soldiers with the air ambulance unit from Fort Riley, Kan., the mission here is nothing new. About 80 percent of the company served in Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

Capt. Steven Murty, flight platoon leader, had what was probably the most profound thought of the day; if the unit was not called to fly another day, not one more hour, the MEDEVAC crews would be delighted because that would mean their crucial services were no longer required to save a life.



Photos by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Staff Sgt. Max Casey, flight medic, 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), does a pre-flight check on a medical bag.



Sgt. Thomas Tanoah, a crew chief with the 82nd Med. Co., does a pre-flight check on a MEDEVAC helicopter Aug. 29.



The MEDEVAC helicopters are in the air in under 10 minutes to go save lives.

## Sailor on active duty to compete in three events at Athens Paralympics

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Casey Tibbs is heading to Athens next week, looking for gold in the 400-meter, 4x400-meter relay and the pentathlon track and field events.

If you're thinking he's missed the starter's gun, think again. Tibbs confirmed that he is the first active duty servicemember to compete in the Paralympics that will run Sept. 17-28.

A 110- and 300-meter hurdler at Lake Travis High School in Austin, Texas, Tibbs graduated in 1999 and entered the Navy about a month later. He also quit running competitively.

"I thought I was done (running)," Tibbs said.

A motorcycle accident on March 5, 2001, and the events that followed changed his mind.

Tibbs lost his right leg below the knee in that accident.

Because of the investment in his training, the Navy gave him an option of separating or staying in. He chose to stay.

About a year after being back on active duty, he read an article about Paralympians and was inspired. Tibbs decided he would compete in the next Paralympics.

He said his first track meet went so well that the Paralympic coaches called him and invited him to a national meet.

He said he is currently ranked No. 2 in the world in the 400-meter.

He qualified for the 2004 games



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class James Pinsky

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Casey Tibbs will compete in the 400-meter dash, the 4x400-meter relay and the pentathlon Paralympic events in Athens, Greece, in September. He is ranked No. 2 in the world in the 400-meter events. Tibbs is the first active duty Paralympian.**

with a pentathlon score of 4,573 during the 2004 Far West Games held at San Jose City College in California.

Rankings for the pentathlon (long-jump, shot put, discus, 100- and 400-meter events) haven't been released yet, but he said he feels competitive in the event.

He will be among about 4,000 athletes from 130 countries to compete.

Tibbs has spent the past week in Oklahoma City, Okla., getting a new prosthesis. He said he's been training

on his new leg for the past week and has no anxiety about running on it in his events.

"The thing about the Paralympics is, you can be a great athlete and a good runner, but you're only going to run as good as your prosthesis is going to allow you to run," Tibbs said.

Tibbs said he's just ready to get to Greece and start running.

"I'm really excited. It's been a lot of work," Tibbs said. "Training for it is no fun at all. It's not a fun sport to train

for. But it's all worth it once it's over and you get a medal."

If everything goes well in Athens, Tibbs said he'd like to compete in the 2008 Paralympics to be held in Beijing.

"From everything, it looks like the Navy supports me 100 percent," he said, adding that the Navy Sports Department, headed by John Hickok, has arranged for transportation to meets and provided uniforms. Tibbs said that Hickok also worked with Adidas to secure sponsorship for him. He said his command has been very supportive, as well.

The meaning of being the first active duty Paralympian is not lost on Tibbs, who is stationed at Naval Security Group Activity Medina in San Antonio, Texas.

Tibbs said he never would have expected when he lost his leg that his life wouldn't change drastically. "When you lose your leg, people kind of first assume that 'My life is totally different now. ... I've got to live differently,'" Tibbs said. "There are little changes, but really for the most part, nothing's really changed for me. Everything has changed for the better for me.

"I wouldn't ever have dreamed of going to the Paralympics ... ever," he said. "And now, (I'm about) to go to Greece to compete against everybody else, which is a amazing."

*American Forces Press Service*

## Navy Seabees help local Iraqis graduate construction program at Al Asad

Six weeks of hard work and determination finally paid off for 12 local Iraqis when they graduated from a challenging course hosted by the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 14 at Al Asad, Iraq Aug. 23.

The Iraqi graduates were

participants in the Iraqi Construction Apprentice Program, an outreach program established by the Seabees to train unemployed Iraqis in basic construction skills.

The course was the third ICAP held in Iraq by the Seabees, who have conducted

similar programs in the Iraqi cities of Ramadi and Fallujah.

At the conclusion of the course, each graduate received a certificate and a set of tools donated by United States businesses Spirit of America and Home Depot.

"It's an opportunity for us to give back to an oppressed nation," said Chief Petty Officer Walter A. Groover, steel worker chief, NMCB-14. "We are utilizing the Seabees to teach their construction skills to the Iraqi people."

After successfully completing the six-week, phase one portion of the 12-week curriculum designed to provide students with the skills necessary to rebuild their country, the graduates are moving on to the final half of their training, which will help them find construction employment within their communities.

Groover said that while the instructors are dedicated to teaching their Iraqi pupils proper construction techniques, they are also careful to

ensure that what they teach can be easily combined with existing Iraqi building principles.

"We want to pass on our knowledge so that they can incorporate it into their traditions," Grover said.

To complete the program, the Iraqis had to master basic construction skills in four different areas: plumbing, carpentry, masonry and electrical wiring.

"The Seabees are all experienced in their particular trade," remarked Groover. "We have certified electricians, carpenters and engineers to teach all of these classes."

If the expectations of Cmdr. John Prien, commanding officer, NMCB-14, are met, the training provided by the Seabees will have a positive and lasting effect throughout Iraq.

"We hope that this training and these tools will go a long way in the strengthening of Iraq," he expressed. "We want

Iraq to be a free and successful country."

For many of the Seabee instructors, the course was a pleasurable experience that helped form a bond between student and teacher.

"I've had a lot of fun during this project," said Petty Officer 1st Class John D. Graham, lead instructor, NMCB-14.

The students who took part in the program were all volunteers and were all eager to learn, according to Graham.

"They showed a lot of interest (in the program)," Graham remarked. "Each one was very eager to learn."

If the sense of accomplishment and pride expressed by ICAP student Bassam Saadi is any indication, the program definitely accomplished its mission.

"I'm very happy to have finished," said Saadi. "The instructors were very good and now I want to show my friends what I have learned."

*Marine News Service*



Photo by Cpl. Joel A Chaverri

**An Iraqi Construction Apprentice Program student receives a graduation certificate from Cmdr. John Prien (far right), commanding officer, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 14, for completing phase one of the ICAP course at Al Asad, Iraq, Aug. 23. The ICAP is an outreach program designed by the Seabees of NMCB-14 to train local Iraqis in basic construction skills to help rebuild their communities.**

## Commercial communications gear to take stress off Marine tactical systems in Iraq

Marines can rig a field communications network, including radio, phone and e-mail connectivity, in less than a day.

They can then tear everything down, move to a different location and set it all back up quickly and efficiently.

With most of the Corps' units holding stable positions this year, gear designed for

rapid set up has operated continuously in one location.

Blazing desert heat, exposure to sand and dust and constant use are taking their toll on the tactical communications gear that Marines use here.

To take the strain off this equipment, the I Marine Expeditionary Force is making a switch to a "commercialized"

system throughout its bases in Iraq.

The swap will allow I MEF Marines to take most of their gear back to the United States with them, while still leaving a communications network in place for units from the II MEF, which is scheduled to relieve them next spring.

At the headquarters for the 1st Force Service Support Group in Camp Taqaddum, Iraq, the Marines are replacing above-ground copper wiring with buried fiber-optic cable.

They are also using the opportunity to hard-wire most of the units here into one base-wide network.

The core of the new system is a multi-cable "spine," made up of lines for phones, e-mail and Internet, which winds through almost the entire camp.

To protect the expensive cables from damage, Marines from the Group's Communications Company have spent the last six months digging between 60 and 100 kilometers of ditches, to bury the cables, said Gunnery Sgt. Michael B. Sipple, the Group's data systems chief.

"It's a slow process. It just

has to be done the right way," said Sgt. Brian P. O'Rourke, who is in charge of rotating the 4-6 person crew that digs the ditches and lays the cable.

While a small tractor with a big dirt-digging chainsaw plows most of the longer trenches, the Marines have to do a lot of the remaining work using shovels and other tools, said Sipple.

As the ditch diggers lay the new lines through other units' areas, they split them off, so that other Marines from the company can then connect them to junction boxes.

This is how they add various units into the network.

Though a lot of work is necessary to set up the new system, the Marines say it will require less work to operate.

The new system is faster and more reliable, said Sgt. Alfonso J. Cortes, who leads the teams making the junction box connections.

"One of these lines could get cut and data would still find its way to where it needs to go," said Cortes. "It's going to make life a lot easier out here for us."

Making this switch to commercially purchased commu-

nications gear isn't cheap.

Just one of the 10-kilometer spools of fiber-optic cable costs about \$26,000 and the Marines have used three so far, said Warrant Officer Jay Shivers.

The total cost of the project here will carry a price tag of approximately \$5 million, said Lt. Col. James B. Fritz, the Group's communications officer.

Even though the new system is expensive, the Marines are getting their money's worth, as it takes the stress off of the military gear and the Marines running it, said Fritz.

The Marines can then redeploy to their original units and the gear can be sent back to the United States.

The project officer at Marine Corps Systems Command is still in the process of procuring most of the larger equipment, including e-mail servers and switches.

The Group is also having a prefabricated "telecommunications facility" built to house the new equipment.

"It will be easier for contractors to come here and run it," said Fritz.

*Marine News Service*



Photo by Sgt. Matt Epright

**Lance Cpl. Thomas E. Jacobo, a field wireman with the 1st Force Service Support Group's Communications Company, digs a ditch in which fiber-optic cable will be laid, at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq, Aug. 14, 2004. Marines from the company have been swapping out Marine Corps tactical communications gear for commercially produced equipment to free up the military gear, which has been operating continuously since the 1st FSSG arrived in Iraq.**

## Award-winning Christian musician teams with Army in campaign to keep Soldiers safe

Sixty years ago, a mother wrote to her three sons fighting in World War II. Her request of them was simple: "Make it home, make it safe."

They all did. And her great-grandson, award-winning Christian musician Mark Schultz, has told her story inspired by those letters and her diary.

"Letters From War" tells of a mother writing her son, only to receive a letter one day from a man he helped to rescue. The son was captured, but the mother "kept on believing, and wrote every night."

The song relates the fear the mother had of being told her son wouldn't be coming home. Instead, he arrives to tell her he was just "following orders, from all of your letters, and I've come home again."

Because of "Letters From War," Schultz has teamed with the Army Safety Center on its new campaign, "Be Safe - Make it Home" in an effort to reduce the number of accidental deaths.

The collaboration came about when an employee of an Atlanta film company that had done some work for the Army heard the song, Schultz said.

That employee pitched it to the Army Safety Center as a great tie-in to the Army safety campaign. Center commander Brig. Gen. Joseph Smith thought it would be a good fit.

Schultz has worked on the campaign with the Army since May.

His contributions include the video and public service announcements to both Soldiers and their families about the importance of keeping soldiers safe.

"I can't imagine growing up without my three

great-uncles that came back from the war. Those were my heroes," Schultz said. "My message to the troops is, I can't imagine growing up without them. Don't rob your kids and don't rob your great-grandkids of getting the chance to know you, and for you to be a hero to them."

The Army's accidental deaths jumped from 168 in fiscal 2001 to 255 in fiscal 2003, according to Army Safety Center officials at Fort Rucker, Ala. Statistics show that one Soldier is killed in an accident every 34 hours.

"Letters From War," which many think was inspired by Operation Iraqi Freedom, but was actually written before the conflict began, has been a concert favorite for fans. It keeps drawing standing ovations, Schultz said. When Schultz performed the song in the Pentagon courtyard today, the reaction was much the same.

The Army invited Schultz to perform for the Pentagon audience as part of his participation in the safety campaign. As the concert ended, Schultz expressed his appreciation for those who protect the soldiers.

"We're so grateful for all you do keeping soldiers safe," he said.

Army Master Sgt. Nydia Ocasio of Army headquarters said "Letters From War" is excellent and that it is a good vehicle to deliver the Army's message.

"The message is simple, and it's good music for the younger Soldiers," Ocasio said.

The Army's goal is to reduce accidental deaths



Photo by Samantha L. Quigley

**Award-winning Christian musician Mark Schultz performs in the Pentagon courtyard Aug. 25 at the Army's invitation. Schultz has teamed with the Army Safety Center as part of its "Be safe - Make it home" safety campaign. His song "Letters From War" is the centerpiece of the campaign.**

by 50 percent, though Lt. Col. Willie Gaddis, deputy director for Army safety, said no decline has been realized yet.

Schultz also visited the wounded troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center Aug. 24. "I don't know that I was prepared for what I saw," Schultz said. "I didn't know how to prepare to go in for that. And the thing I was most unprepared for was their reaction to me, and that was one of gratefulness to be there."

*American Forces Press Service*



Rudy Manalac and Ricky Ammons, customer service representatives at the LSA Anaconda Central Issue Facility conduct inventory accountability of boots.



Ammons checks the size of a pair of desert camouflage uniform trousers prior to exchanging them.



Guliatto Espinado, a forklift operator, checks the size on a pair of desert camouflage trousers prior destroying them.

# Issue facility keeps troops geared up

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
*Staff writer*

With service members and civilians running combat missions round the clock, mission-essential gear tends to wear out and get lost or damaged quickly and easily.

The LSA Anaconda Central Issue Facility keeps all the U.S. military services, some civilian groups and allied forces supplied with serviceable equipment. The CIF staff supports 854 units, 188 within LSA Anaconda and 666 at other installations throughout theater.

“We facilitate [direct exchanges], turn-ins and issues for just about all of Iraq,” said Glenn Lee, KBR’s CIF manager.

The 14 KBR and 27 Prime Projects International employees process the issue and turn-ins of such gear as desert camouflage uniforms, desert boots, common table of allowances-50 (Army-issued individual equipment), flight suits and jackets, boonie caps, patrol caps, sleeping bags and a host of other items too numerous to name.

“Because of CIF, Soldiers can maintain their equipment to [Department of the Army] standards,” said Staff Sgt. Bienvenido Celestino, 13th Corps Support Command’s CIF liaison NCO.

Although civilian contractors run the day-to-day workings of the facility, Army personnel oversee those operations.

In order to receive the items that stock the shelves of the facility, Lee puts in requisitions to an Army liaison, who then orders the inventory through the Standard Army Retail Supply System.

“We can’t do anything without the support of the military. I get tremendous support from the 13th COSCOM,” Lee said.

Units that need to DX equipment, whether it is lost, damaged or the wrong size, will need to establish an account with CIF. Providing a customer service representative with assumption of command orders and a Department of the Army form 1687, delegation of authority, both signed by the unit commander, accomplishes this.

After service members establish a unit account, they will need a memorandum from their commander describing the items to be DX’ed.

The staff will not accept gear that is dirty or contaminated with blood or fuel. Service members should seek their commander’s guidance concerning the disposal of contaminated articles.

The staff conducts initial issues in a similar fashion, the only exception being that the service member needs a memorandum stating the reason for the initial issue.

“We’re here for the Soldiers. Just about every Soldier is going to have to come in here, sooner or later,” Lee said.

If items are not in stock when Soldiers need them, the customer service representatives take their paperwork, keep it on file and notify them via e-mail when the items come in.

The estimated shipping time on CIF inventory items is about 36 days.

Because this facility is one of two in the whole theater, service members from other installations often come in to DX or acquire initial issue items.

These service members can e-mail their requests and convoy to pick up their gear. The CIF staff also transports bulk issues to the airfield, so that units can fly in for pick up.

The facility works on a first-come, first-served basis and is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., but there is always a crew there for emergencies.

Emergencies constitute anything from tent fires or firefights where personal equipment is lost or damaged. In these cases, service members can come in at all hours of the day or night and replenish their lost supply.

The CIF building is at 4058 Kostka Lane, off Pennsylvania Avenue.

Call 558-2744, for more information or e-mail [cif.anaconda1@us.army.mil](mailto:cif.anaconda1@us.army.mil).



The LSA Anaconda Central Issue Facility staff process exchanges, turn-ins and initial issues for service members and civilians throughout the theater of operations.



Pfc. Belinda Villa Barraza, 369th Transportation Company, completes a bulk exchange of desert camouflage uniforms, with the assistance of customer service representative, Eduardo Bartolay Aug. 28.

Movie Schedule

# Sustainer Reel Time Theater

Daily Shows: 3 p.m., 6 p.m., and 9 p.m.  
(schedule is subject to change)

Sept. 5

3 p.m. Without A Paddle  
6 p.m. King Arthur  
9 p.m. Anchorman

Sept. 6

3 p.m. Anchorman  
6 p.m. White Chicks  
9 p.m. King Arthur

Sept. 7

3 p.m. Without A Paddle  
6 p.m. Two Brothers  
9 p.m. White Chicks

Sept. 8

3 p.m. King Arthur  
6 p.m. Without A Paddle  
9 p.m. Anchorman

Sept. 9

3 p.m. Anchorman  
6 p.m. King Arthur  
9 p.m. Without A Paddle

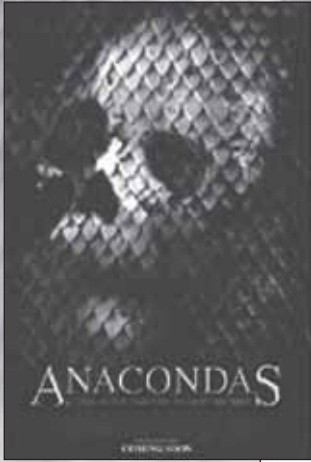
Sept. 10

3 p.m. Anacondas  
6 p.m. Anacondas  
9 p.m. Anacondas

Sept. 11

3 p.m. Catwoman  
6 p.m. Anacondas  
9 p.m. A Cinderella Story

Anacondas



A Cinderella Story



## Weekly Religious Schedule

Protestant-Traditional

Sunday 9 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)  
Sunday 9: 30 a.m. 31st Combat Support Hospital  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Sapper Chapel (bldg. 4091)  
Sunday 11 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)  
Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Aviation Group Chapel

Protestant-Praise and Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent  
Sunday 11 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

Protestant-Gospel

11:30 Sustainer Indoor Theater  
7 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

Protestant-Liturgical

Saturday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Church of Christ

Sunday 11 a.m. 1/142nd Chapel Tent

Islamic Prayer

Friday 1:30 p.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent

Protestant-Contemporary

Sunday 7 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel  
Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Sunday 8:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent  
Sunday 10 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday noon 31st Combat Support Hospital  
Monday 9 a.m. PPI Dining Facility  
Monday 7 p.m. PPI Dining Facility  
Saturday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

Latter Day Saints

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent  
Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Lutheran

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Cherokee Chapel (bldg. 4002)  
Sunday 2 p.m. 185th Task Force Tent

Jewish Prayer

Saturday 6:30 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

Christian Orthodox

Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent

## Movie Synopsis for Sept 5 - Sept. 11

Anacondas

PG-13, Action, 99 min  
Eugene Byrd, Morris Chestnut

A scientific expedition is assembled by a powerful pharmaceutical company to search for a rare black orchid in the deep recesses of the jungles of Borneo. They are in search of a flower named the Black Orchid. Reports say that this flower can lead to a longer life. Their hope is that the orchid can be used to unlock the secrets of youth and immortality. What they soon discover is that the orchid is already being used by a denizen host of giant snakes to augment their strength, size and appetites. Now the scientists must find a way out of the rainforest by outsmarting, outrunning and outliving the anacondas.

A Cinderella Story

PG, Comedy, 95 min  
Hilary Duff, Jennifer Coolidge

Cute but geeky high-school student Samantha Martin (Hilary Duff) is knocked off her feet by her father's untimely death, which leaves Samantha's well-being in the care of Nora (Jennifer Coolidge), Sam's wicked stepmother. Nora exploits Sam's dependence by hoisting any dirty work off her own shoulders. Samantha's life is irrevocably changed, however, by a makeover and a sudden electronic correspondence with a mysterious young man. Samantha and her Prince Charming develop a romance through text messages and e-mails, and ultimately promise to meet face-to-face at the biggest school dance of the year.

King Arthur

PG-13, Adventure, 130 min  
Clive Owen, Stephen Dillane

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer presents this gritty retelling of the legend of King Arthur starring Clive Owen in the title role. Directed by Antoine Fuqua, the film is void of the magical realism of such Arthurian films as Excalibur, instead attempting to place the story into a historical context. Set in the fifth century, the story follows Arthur as he rises up to bring Britain out of anarchy after the fall of the Roman Empire. Creating the Round Table, King Arthur attempts to bring together the feuding knights of the region. Stephen Dillane, Keira Knightley, and Stellan Skarsgård also star.

Without a Paddle

PG-13, Comedy, 95 min  
Seth Green, Matthew Lillard

When childhood friends (Seth Green, Matthew Lillard, and Dax Shepard) reunite in Oregon at their friend Billy's funeral, their reunion kicks off more than a little nostalgia. While reminiscing in their childhood tree house, the trio discovers that Billy had been pursuing their boyhood dreams of finding legendary bank robber DB Cooper's \$200,000 stash. Soon they find themselves spiraling out of control up a very brown river in this raucous comedy. Heading out for a weekend canoe trip in search of the treasure, the trio contend with everything from raging rapids to backwoods mountain men in their effort to uncover the missing booty.

# Airmen work closely with Soldiers protecting camp

By Spc. Kathryn Spurrell  
*81st BCT Public Affairs Office*

An Air National Guard unit attached to an Army National Guard unit, both from Washington state, work closely with air and ground forces to protect LSA Anaconda.

The 116th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron has seven Airmen split between two Joint Tactical Air Control teams, who use the Predator unmanned air vehicles to scan battle space that enables the teams to effectively assist in Anti-Iraqi Forces apprehension and control F-16 fighter plane air strikes.

The Predator's technology allows commanders to view the battle space from the ground, said Maj. John Dowling, an 81st Brigade Combat Team air liaison officer. According to Dowling, the Predator does more than scan.

"It can observe air strikes, assist in target identification and mark targets. It also carries Hellfire missiles," he said.

After a rocket or mortar attack against the camp, the JTAC team locates the suspected point of origin on a map and converts it to the

Predator's coordinate system. As the Predator moves in to provide information about the area of interest, fighter planes or quick reaction forces are able to respond quickly and accurately to the attack.

With the help of the Predator, Task Force Tacoma, an 81st BCT force protection asset, has captured people suspected of launching mortars at the camp.

"A few times when we have observed a point of origin immediately after an attack, we have seen someone leaving the site. We were able to follow them to a house and captured the people who tested positive for explosives," said Tech Sgt. Scott McDaniel.

Working in a joint atmosphere, and unfamiliar with the Predator, the team learned quickly.

"We've never done work like this before," said McDaniel. "This opportunity came up and it seems to be working out pretty well."

It takes concentration and dedication to for the 116th EASOS to perform the daily mission.

"Our guys have a lot to be proud of," Dowling said. "Coordination with the Predator as a close-fight weapon is groundbreaking. The guys have pulled a lot of long hours and

worked very hard."

In addition to their work with the Predator, the JTACs often go outside the perimeter on area reconnaissance missions to provide ground control of fighter aircraft.

"Serving in an ASOS is a tough job but an important one," said Lt. Col. Kevin Nack, 116th EASOS commander and the 81st BCT air liaison

officer. "I'm glad to do it. I think what we're doing here in Iraq is important."

Working together has been a positive experience for the Air Force and Army reservists. "I have nothing but the highest regard for my Army counterparts," said Nack. "I'd like to thank them for all of their hard work."



Photo by Staff Sgt Aaron Allmon II

**McDaniel, 116th EASOS here, conducts a patrol to clear the area so the TACPs can call in an air-strike May 17.**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Reed

**Staff Sgt. Carl Hill uses a laser to highlight a target, while Tech. Sgt. Scott McDaniel talks to the crews of inbound aircraft during a weapons interdiction mission. They are Tactical Air Control Parties with the 116th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron.**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Faulisi

### Peeking fear

A young girl peers from her doorway as U.S. Soldiers search her home for suspected Anti-Iraqi Forces near LSA Anaconda Aug. 20.



Photo by Senior Airman Joshua Strang

### Rough ruff

Rin Tin, a military working dog, waits for the command to enter a tube during training Aug. 18. Rin Tin is a 7-year-old 98-pound German shepherd assigned to the 354th Security Forces Squadron.



## 50 Cent and G-Unit

at LSA Anaconda Stadium  
Sept. 7, from 1 to 3 p.m.

## Arabic Familiarization Class

Tuesdays 1 to 2 p.m.  
(resumes Aug. 31)

13th Corps Support Command G-5  
building 4135 New Jersey Avenue  
next to the chapel  
529-8481

# Texas rock crushers beat 'em down

By Master Sgt. Jack Gordon  
*U.S. Army Reserve Public Affairs*

The sun won't break the edge of the horizon for another few hours, but soldiers from the 277th Engineer Company's Quarry Platoon are already on the job.

Due to the heat increasing in the long days of Iraq's summer months, the relative coolness of 80 to 90 degree mornings make working at the unit's rock-crushing plant more bearable, so the Soldiers arrive about 0400 hours, just like in the Army's television ads.

"Yesterday it was 127 degrees," said Sgt. 1st Class David Cantyne, non-commissioned officer in charge of the operation. "We're working now from four in the morning until about 2 p.m. It's better for the Soldiers."

The 277th En. Co., from San Antonio, Texas, is an asphalt paving company – the rock crusher is a part of the overall mission. The Quarry Platoon is responsible for acquiring and sizing the aggregate, or stone, that will be mixed with a tar-like binding element to create asphalt.

The unit has four platoons; quarry, asphalt, maintenance and headquarters, with about 140 Soldiers assigned. Their primary mission here is paving roads and stretches of airport runways, or "topping" aprons for vehicle or aircraft placement/parking and managing dust.

The crusher resembles an almost nightmarish mechanical octopus with metal tentacles stretching far from its center, each dropping showers of newly crushed stone onto mounds of various-sized rocks to meet the paving needs of planned hard surfaces.

"The unit can take any size aggregate and reduce it according to need," said Cantyne. "Here, we don't have a quarry to blast our rock from, so we have contract gravel delivered. We buy rock less than five inches – and bring it here to crush it."

The plant's systems, although gargantuan, are actually quite refined, and able to produce crushed and washed rock in quarter-inch or three-

quarter-inch sizes, as well as separating washed sand. Each long arm features a rubber conveyer belt that transports the clean stuff to separate piles where scoop-loaders transfer it to trucks for hauling to a storage yard or jobsite.

"The aggregate has to be clean for the binder to work effectively," Cantyne said. After getting the aggregate and blending it with the binder, the 277th's paving crew spreads and compacts the asphalt. "We do the same kind of road paving you see on highways at home – we do everything but the striping."

"Crush rock and pave the way – that's our motto," said Staff Sgt. Billy K. Steele. Before his mobilization for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Steele was employed by the University of Texas at San Antonio as the facilities superintendent.

"We take big rocks and make little ones out of them," Steele said. He is focused on the rock-crushing process since he feels the lack of similar attention may have contributed to some of the poor road surface conditions in Iraq.

"The roads here are pretty crappy because they didn't crush the rock – they used a lot of river rock and sand stone, or they didn't get a good coat down first," Steele said. He also noted that there are no weight restrictions on roads here, unlike in the United States, and the wear and tear exacted by the overloaded trucks has no doubt contributed to the crumbling of many of Iraq's roads.

As the sky grows lighter in shades, a falling star burns through the atmosphere. Slowly, a fiery orange sun peeks over the distant horizon, setting everything aglow. With the light, it's easier to spot the platoon's Soldiers assigned to various duties on the rock crusher.

"It takes everybody working together to make this work," Steele said. "Every morning we review our plans for the day so everybody knows where they are and what they're doing. We have a safety briefing – we don't get in a hurry, but we don't get complacent either."

The operation is located near the perimeter, and it would seem relatively easy to lob in a few mortar rounds, if the enemy were so inclined.

"We get occasional mortar rounds and rockets,"

Steele confirmed. "There are people who don't want us here so they think if they keep throwing stuff at us we'll quit our jobs and go away, but we're Soldiers too."

"We all knew what we were doing when we enlisted, but we have Soldiers who are watching and we will respond to and engage the enemy if necessary. We're alert at all times," said Steele.

A Soldier covered in dust crawled from beneath the main belt of the rock crusher and offered an early morning smile. She said the dirt and dust in the plant aren't a major concern.

"I don't mind getting dirty," said Staff Sgt. Lucia Estrada. "That's why I got this job. I like to get dirty. They [the recruiters] tried to get me into the medical field, but I asked about this job [from photographs in the brochure]. They told me it was a rock crusher and that I'd learn to blast [explosives] too, so I said 'Cool, it sounds great!'"

Estrada said she's grateful to the Army for allowing her to choose what she wanted to be.

"I enlisted in 1999 and I've been crushing rock ever since," she said. Estrada said her role at the plant embodies many functional areas, and that she's willing to do whatever has to be done to keep the crusher crushing.

"Everybody here knows how to do everything – we all know all the jobs and we do them very well," said Estrada, who admits that even with disregard to gender, she has no qualms about being physically limited. She has an answer.

"As a female, there are quite a few things that I have a little more difficulty doing than the other (male) soldiers because I can't lift as much, or I can't reach as high, but like any other soldier of my height and weight, you have to ask your buddy for help if you can't do something, especially if you can't do it safely," Estrada said.

She said her family and friends think she's crazy for her job choice in the Army and her dedication to it, but knows they support her efforts from the care packages they send. But her goals aren't really too difficult to explain.

"Seeing the whole thing run together," Estrada said, "and making the products we need, then seeing the finished product, that's what I like best."

## Question of the Week

# What is your best memory of Labor Day?



**Airman 1st Class  
Saquenthia Walker**  
332nd ELRS

"Eating yakisoba and goiza with Japanese nationals [while I was] in Japan."



**Master Sgt.  
Sherry Richardson**  
Corps Distribution Command

"Being with my family and loved ones, barbecuing on the back patio and shopping."



**Pvt. Garland Carrell**  
303rd Armor

"My best memory is barbecuing with the family."



**Spc. Ryan Perez**  
14th Cavalry

"I remember being in basic training on Labor Day."



**Sgt. Candice Bradshaw**  
644th Transportation Company

"Being on the river wake boarding"

# Anti wins Olympic silver

By Tim Hipps  
*Army News Service*

ATHENS, Greece — Maj. Michael Anti won a silver medal Aug. 22 in men's 50-meter three-position rifle shooting in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

"I wish I had the gold but I'm just excited to have a medal," said Anti, 40, of Winterville, N.C., assigned to the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga. and a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program. "We have such a great unit and such a great Army for them to allow me to do this. There are people overseas risking their life to allow me to compete here, so it's a big deal."

China's Zhanbo Jia won the gold medal with 1,264.5 points. Anti took the silver medal with 1,263.1 points. Austria's Christian Planer claimed the bronze medal with a 1,262.8 total.

Anti entered the final round in seventh place.

After shooting marks of 10.4, 8.8, 9.3 and 10.6, he moved into fourth place with a 10.8 on his fifth of 10 shots in the finale. An 8.5 on his ensuing shot, however, cost him dearly. He quickly rebounded with marks of 10.4 and 10.8 to move into third place. Then an 8.1 dropped him back to fourth. He capped the performance with a 10.4.

Matthew Emmons, 23, of Browns Mills, N.J., had the gold medal firmly in his grasp until he shot the wrong target on his last of 10 shots. The mark of zero dropped him to eighth place with 1,257.4 points, stunning the crowd at Markopoulo Olympic Shooting Centre.

Had Emmons closed with a respectable mark, Team USA would have won the gold and bronze medals.

"For me, it was kind of up and down," Anti said of his final round. "I'd shoot a good 10 and



Maj. Michael Anti won Olympic silver in the men's 50-meter three-position rifle competition Aug. 22 in Athens, Greece.

then I'd shoot an 8. Then shoot a good 10 and shoot an 8.

None of the shots were really bad shots, I just was late on the trigger," he said. "If I caught it a millisecond before, it could've been a 10. I'm just thrilled to death that I won the silver with my final."

# Senior finishes 13th in Olympic modern pentathlon

By Tim Hipps  
*Army News Service*

ATHENS, Greece — First Lt. Chad Senior saved his best for last, but it wasn't nearly enough as he finished 13th in men's modern pentathlon Aug. 26 in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games at Goudi Olympic Complex.

Senior, 29, a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program from North Fort Myers, Fla., finished second in the 3,000-meter cross-country run with a time of 9 minutes, 35.76 seconds. It was the last of five events that included pistol shooting, fencing, swimming and equestrian riding.



Photo by Master Sgt. Lono Kollars

**1st Lieutenant Chad Senior, a member of the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program swims the 200m Freestyle event of Modern Pentathlon during the 2004 Olympics at the Goudi Sports Complex in Athens, Greece.**

In the 2000 Summer Olympic Games at Sydney, Australia, Senior was leading after three events. On this day, his medal hopes were dashed before he mounted Guelfo Del Belagio for a ride to a 22nd-place finish in show jumping.

Russia's Andrey Moiseev won the gold medal with 5,480 points. Lithuania's Andrejus Zadneprovskis took the silver medal with 5,428 points. Czech Republic's Libor Capalini claimed the bronze with a 5,392 total.

Team USA's Vakhtang "Vaho" Iagorashvili finished ninth with 5,276 points.

Senior, who stumbled out of the blocks by finishing 18th in 10-meter air pistol, finished the grueling day in 13th place with 5,192 points. He buried himself deeper with a 26th-place finish in epee one-touch fencing.

Senior came splashing back with a fourth-place finish in the 200-meter freestyle in 2:02.39. But on the equestrian ride, his horse kicked no less than five rails to the ground, leaving Senior in 22nd place in the event and 20th overall entering the run. He passed seven runners to finish 13th.

# Browne finishes 12th in Olympic 10,000 meters

By Tim Hipps  
*Army News Service*

ATHENS, Greece — Oregon National Guard Capt. Dan Browne challenged the Ethiopians and Kenyans Aug. 20 while running to a 12th-place finish in the men's 10,000-meter final in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games at Olympic Stadium.

He used the 10,000 meters as a training precursor for the 26.2-mile trek but instead led several laps early and continued running full speed until the waning circuits to finish with a time of 28 minutes, 14.53 seconds.

In the end, however, Ethiopia's dazzling duo of Kenenisa Bekele and Sileshi Sihine lapped Browne and more than half the runners in the 24-man field.

Bekele won the gold medal with an Olympic record time of 27:05.10 and Sihine claimed the silver medal in 27:09.39. Zersenay Tadesse took the bronze medal with a national record time of 27:22.57 for Eritrea.

"I'm at that point of my career where I've done that whole sit behind the Kenyans and just let them control everything," Browne said of setting the early pace. "We were going easy so I decided to put myself in the mix. I wasn't afraid of leading for a little bit because you've got to test yourself. I think they know who I am now."

Team USA's Abdihakem Abdirahman finished 15th in 28:26.26. Dathan Ritzenhein, the other American entry, dropped out of the race.

Browne, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and former member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, was pleased with his performance.

"I gave my best out there tonight," he said. "The heat might have made me pull back just a little bit, but at the same time, when I finished I was pretty tired. My calves got a little tight toward the end."

Browne, however, said he chose to not sprint at the end so as not to spoil the Ethiopians' moment as they lapped him to a thunderous roar from the crowd.



Photo by Tim Hipps

**Oregon National Guardsman Capt. Dan Browne (Team USA No. 3235) leads the way in the 10,000 meters final of the 2004 Summer Olympic Games at Athens.**



Photo by Master Sgt. Lono Kollars

**Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Duloherly from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., takes aim during the finals round of Mens Skeet competition at Markopoulo Shooting Centre during the Athens 2004 Olympics in Greece. Duloherly was 3rd in a dramatic 5-way shoot-off in the qualifying round, shot a perfect final round, and finished 5th in another dramatic 5-way shoot-off.**

# Duloherly loses bronze

By Tim Hipps  
*Army News Service*

ATHENS, Greece — Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Duloherly lost a three-way shoot-off for a bronze medal and finished fifth in men's skeet shooting Aug. 22 in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

Sgt. 1st Class James "Todd" Graves finished in a six-way tie for ninth place in the two-day event at Markopoulo Olympic Shooting Centre.

Italy's Andrea Benelli prevailed in another shoot-off against silver medalist Marko Kemppainen, who equaled the world record in qualification, to win the gold medal with a final score of 149. Cuba's Juan Miguel Rodriguez defeated Quatar's Nasser Al-Attiya and Duloherly in

the shoot-off for the bronze medal with a 147 total.

"It was an exciting final; good to be in it," said Duloherly, 39, a member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit from Lee's Summit, Mo. "I wish for USA Shooting's sake and my sake that I would've won a medal but there's always the next one."

Duloherly nailed 122 of 125 targets in five qualification rounds, including a perfect 25 in his final stanza to reach the final. He said he was too pumped up for the shoot-off.

"I just shot it too quick," he said of missing his sixth target in the shoot-off for third place. "I get quicker as the pressure builds. I'm a really, really high-anxiety person and I was pretty excited just to be in the finals."

Rodriguez downed 10 targets to Nasser's nine to claim the bronze.

# Smith finishes ninth in Olympic lightweight four rowing

By Tim Hipps  
*Army News Service*

SCHINIAS, Greece — Capt. Matt Smith's lightweight four crew finished third in the B final Aug. 21 to place ninth in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games rowing event at Schinias Olympic Rowing and Canoeing Centre.

One day later, Denmark's quartet of Thor Kristensen, Thomas Ebert, Stephan Moelvig and Eskild Ebbesen won the gold medal with a time of 6 minutes, 1.39 seconds in the men's lightweight four A final. Australia's Glen Loftus, Anthony Edwards, Ben Cureton and Simon Burgess won the silver medal with a time of 6:02.79. Italy's Lorenzo Bertini, Catello Amarante, Salvatore Amtrano and Bruno Mascarenhas took the bronze medal in 6:03.74.

Veljko Urosevic, Nenad Babovic, Goran Nedeljkovic and Milos Tomic of Serbia and Montenegro won the B final with a time of 6:19.00, followed by Russia's Aleksandr Zyuzin, Sergej Bukreev, Valerij Saritchev and Aleksandr Savkin in 6:20.64.

Smith, a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, teamed with Cincinnati's Pat Todd, Paul Teti of Upper Darby, Pa., and Steve Warner of Livonia, Mich., to finish third with a



Photo by Master Sgt. Lono Kollars

**Smith cools-down after finals competition in Lightweight Four Rowing in the 2004 Olympics at Schinias Rowing Complex near Athens, Greece. Smith's team placed 9th in the event.**

time of 6:22.24.

The Americans defeated crews from Austria, Germany and Spain.

"The best you can give is all you can give," said Smith, 23, an infantry officer from Woodbridge, Va. "If you get beat, you get beat, and that's what happened today. It was a tough week of racing.

"Ninth overall at the Olympics isn't bad for the

first time," Smith said with a smile. "I'm definitely motivated to try for the 2008 Games. I just want to thank all the Armed Forces around the world for helping us out here.

"Even if I can't stay in the [WCAP] program, I'm definitely staying in the Army," Smith concluded. "I owe it to them. They gave me a lot and now it's time to give back."



Photo by Master Sgt. Lono Kollars

**U.S. Army Capt. Matt Smith, left, World Class Athlete Program, competes in lightweight four rowing in the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Reed

An F-16C Fighting Falcon from the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, here, launches flares during a combat mission over Iraq, Aug. 18.

# PHOTOS



Photo by Lance Cpl. Kevin C Quihuis, Jr

U.S. Marines with 2nd Platoon, Small Craft Company out of Camp Lejeune, NC carry their zodiac to the Euphrates River to conduct an island searching operation in the Al Anbar province, Iraq. 1st Marine Division is engaged in Security and Stabilization Operations in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Kevin C Quihuis Jr

U.S. Marines with 2nd Platoon, Small Craft Company out of Camp Lejeune, NC run to support vehicles in a contact drill as part of their Riverine Operations rehearsal in Al Asad, Iraq. 1st Marine Division is engaged in Security and Stabilization Operations in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.